Rs. 1250 crores has been allocated in the Tenth Plan for NLM schemes. At present, no assistance of UNESCO is being taken for NLM schemes.

Ban on mobile phones in schools

†639. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed any ban on the use of mobile phones in all Government schools, private and public and aided schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Foreign investment in Higher Education

640. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow foreign investment in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be finalised;

(c) whether Government also propose to harness domestic resources and private investment before resorting to foreign funding; and

(d) by when Government would enact a legislation regulating admission and tuition fees in the private self financing institutions as directed by the Supreme Court in the TMA Pai case and the Islamic Academic case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Investment (FDI) in Education, including higher education, is already being allowed under the automatic route, without any sectoral cap, since February, 2000 *vide* Order No. 7(4)/2000-IP dated 11 February, 2000 issued by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

(c) A committee of the CABE on the subject of "Financing of Higher & Technical Education" has been constituted to suggest ways of encouraging and regulating private participation and investments in Higher/Technical Education, among others.

(d) While there is no specific directive in this regard, a conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005, arrived at a broad consensus on the need for a Central Legislation in this regard. A draft bill has been prepared for vetting by the concerned Departments and circulation among various stakeholders including State Governments, to elicit their views for eliminating arbitrariness and malpractices in professional educational institutions.

Entry of Foreign Universities in India

641. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign universities have started operations in India and are offering their degrees to the Indian students;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of such degrees are not recognized by AICTE or any Indian university;

(c) whether any steps are being planned by Government to exercise any checks and balances on such flagrant expansion of the foreign universities offering dubious quality education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao to examine all relevant issues pertaining to the entry of Foreign Universities in India.